

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/681,093  
Applicant(s) : Marty R. Jordan et al.  
Filed : October 09, 2003  
Art Unit : 1746  
Examiner : Alexander Markoff  
Docket No. : JOR001-092 / IP-025-2003

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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance issued concurrently with the Notice of Allowance on October 4, 2007. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not accurately described the features of Applicants' independent claims when characterizing Applicants' invention.

Specifically, independent claim 23 recites a dishwasher comprising: a frontal frame adapted to be positioned upon a supporting surface; a tub including bottom, opposing side, rear and top walls that collectively define a washing chamber, the tub also including a front opening leading into the washing chamber, while being supported by the frontal frame; a door having a bottom portion, the door being pivotally mounted relative to the frontal frame for selectively sealing the front opening of the tub; and a sound tray extending across the frontal frame below the bottom portion of the door, the sound tray having a first edge portion pivotally mounted to the bottom portion of the door such that the sound tray pivots relative to the door when the door is opened.

Independent claim 33 recites a dishwasher comprising: a frontal frame adapted to be positioned upon a supporting surface; a tub including bottom, opposing side, rear and top walls that collectively define a washing chamber, the tub also including a front opening leading into the washing chamber being supported by the frontal frame; a door having a bottom portion, the door being pivotally mounted relative to the tub for selectively sealing the front opening of the tub; and a sound tray extending substantially horizontally from below the bottom portion of the door and across the frontal frame, the sound tray having a first edge portion pivotally mounted to the bottom portion of the door such that the sound tray pivots relative to the door when the door is opened.

Independent claim 43 recites a dishwasher comprising: a frontal frame adapted to be positioned upon a supporting surface; a tub including bottom, opposing side, rear and top walls that collectively define a washing chamber, the tub also including a front opening leading into the washing chamber, while being supported by the frontal frame; a door having a bottom portion, the door being pivotally mounted relative to the frontal frame for selectively sealing the front opening of the tub; and a sound tray extending rearwardly from the bottom portion of the door and between a first upstanding side portion and a second upstanding side portion of the frontal frame, the sound tray having a first edge portion pivotally mounted to the bottom portion of the door such that the sound tray pivots relative to the door when the door is opened.

To avoid confusion and to clearly identify the different combinations of the features of Applicants' invention which has been allowed by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully suggest that Applicants' invention be defined as being allowable over the prior art of record as the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the various combinations of elements set forth separately in independent claims 23, 33 and 43.

Respectfully submitted,

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